

MARSHAL MATTERS

FEBRUARY 2019 EDITION



State of Illinois

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez



OSFM encourages older Illinoisans to think about fire safety, while keeping their limitations in mind when creating a fire escape plan. In 2018, out of the 118 fire deaths in Illinois, 44% of those deaths were people over the age of 60. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA) on average, over 1,000 Americans 65 and older die in home fires and 2,000 are injured in fire-related incidences yearly. The leading cause of residential fire deaths among older adults is careless smoking.

Decreased mobility, health, sight and hearing may limit a person's ability to take quick action needed to escape during a fire. Create an escape plan that considers your limitations. Don't isolate yourself, speak to your caregiver, building manager or family members to make sure your smoke alarms are working, and they understand your fire escape plan. Finally, if possible, live near an exit or plan to sleep on the ground floor if your home has multiple levels.

"In addition to discussing and creating an escape plan with your loved ones is important, the Illinois Department of Aging offers an Emergency Home Response Service - available to individuals over the age of 60 - that provides an extra level of protection and peace of mind," said Paula Basta, Director of IDoA. "Our Emergency Home Response Service is a 24-hour, two-way voice communication system that, when activated, links to assistance outside the home. Once you press the button, help will be on its way in any home emergency." For more information on our Emergency Home Response Service, call our Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966.

OSFM has seen an alarming increasing trend in accidents with people who depend on oxygen in Illinois. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that 89% of deaths related to fire and home oxygen use are caused by smoking. Never smoke or allow someone to smoke around oxygen tanks. Post NO SMOKING signs in every room of your home. Keep oxygen containers at least 5-10 feet away from any heat source. Store oxygen canisters safely and securely in the upright position, away from any type of heat source in an approved oxygen storage cart.

Keep these tips in mind to create a fire safe home:

- Know two ways out of every room. Practice using both ways.
- Remove any items that may block your way out of the room or your home.
- Discuss your fire escape plan with family and neighbors. Contact your building manager or fire department to discuss your plan if you need extra help escaping.
- Keep eyeglasses, keys, hearing aids and a phone within reaching next to your bed.
- Practice your home fire escape drill twice a year.

Employee Spotlight



**Brittani
Crenshaw**

Where are you originally from? Chicago, IL

Tell us about your family? Kids, Significant other? I have no significant other or kids, I do come from a huge family on both sides that I am very grateful for.

Favorite food(s)? My favorite food is Seafood! I do LOVE hot wings, but I can't seem to find any that compare to the ones I had in Atlanta :(

Hobbies? I like event planning

What's your favorite movie or book? My favorite movie is Christmas with the Kranks and my favorite book is the Alchemist.

When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers? Hip Hop & RnB

What did you want to be when you were a kid? When I was a kid, I wanted to be a math teacher... until I took trigonometry.

What's your favorite part of the job? My favorite part of my job are my colleagues.

What's something unique about you? Uhhh, I can wear pretty much any hairstyle.

Where is your favorite place to vacation? I Always have an amazing time when I travel to Miami.

Where is your bucket list destination? Bali, Indonesia and Santorini, Greece.

Life Safety Code Training- Mundelein

OSFM has adopted the NFPA 2015 Edition of the Life Safety Code which takes effect on January 1st. OSFM conducted Life Safety Code training classes in Carterville and Springfield on December 17th and 18th. Attendees learned about the changes from the 2000 edition to the 2015 edition. This serves as the state's minimum fire safety standard.

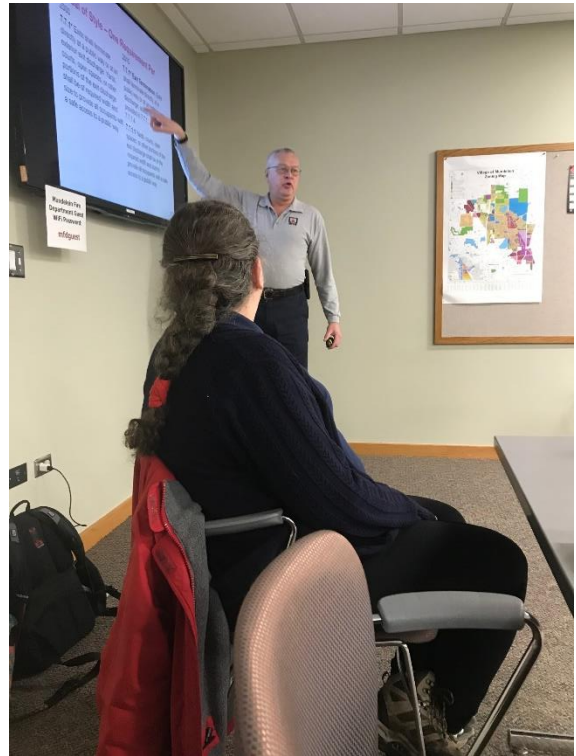
Watch OSFM's website and social media for future classes.

More information about the update to 2015 Edition of the Life Safety Code can be found here:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Resources/Pages/Life-Safety-Code.aspx>

Upcoming Classes

March 13th Morris



Elevator Safety Division



Did you know OSFM regulates elevator safety?

The Elevator Safety Division is responsible for implementing the Elevator Safety and Regulation Act through the registration, inspection, and certification of conveyances, and the licensing of contractors, mechanics, inspectors, inspection companies and apprentices. The Division insures that conveyances are correctly and safely installed and operated with the State of Illinois outside the City of Chicago by regulating the design, installation, construction, operation, inspection, testing, maintenance, alteration and repair of elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, moving sidewalks, platform lifts, stairway lifts and automated people movers in accordance with all applicable statutes and rules.

More about the Elevator Safety division can be found here on OSFM's website:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/About/Divisions/Elevators/Pages/default.aspx>

Illinois Fire Service Meet and Greet at Capitol



Left to Right: Fire Marshal Perez, Rep. Theresa Mah, IFSI Director Royal Mortenson and Rep. Tim Butler.

Fire Marshal Perez and OSFM's Legislative Liaison Katherine Nunes joined other members from different fire service organizations to meet with lawmakers at the capitol. They helped spread the word about important programs supported by OSFM and proposed legislation that will have an effect on the fire service in Illinois.

This meet and greet serves as an opportunity to provide education to lawmakers about the fire service and help emphasize the importance of the support that the fire service provides and brings attention to its ongoing needs.



Fire Marshal Perez speaking with Representative Barbara Hernandez



Fire Marshal Perez speaking with Representative Deanne Mazzochi



Left to Right: Fire Marshal Perez, Representative Dave Severin & IFSI Director Royal Mortenson

Firefighter Peer Support Symposium -Naperville



Left to Right: Jeffery Boetto, Jack Berry, Fire Marshal Perez and Thomas Howard



OSFM is proud to have provided a grant that helped 170 firefighters attend the 2020 Illinois Firefighter Peer Support Symposium in Naperville February 20th and 21st. Suicide rates among first responders is alarming. Attendees to the symposium learned about PTSD, addictions, anxiety, suicide and other significant issues that fire and EMS first responders face daily.

Illinois Firefighter Peer Support's (ILFFPS) mission is to recognize that all fire service and emergency medical service members are human and who will be exposed to, and experience emotions. ILFFPS will provide a safe, non-judgmental and confidential environment where members can engage in healing conversations with a peer. ILFFPS also seeks to share the concept of peer support and the structure of this program with those that request it.

If you know someone who is struggling, or maybe you yourself are struggling, know you are NOT alone. It's okay to reach out for help! Visit <https://www.ilffps.org/> or call toll free at 855-90-SUPPORT.

Associated Firefighters of Illinois Honor Guard Convention

Fire Marshal Perez spoke at the 28th annual Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard Convention thanking members for their service. Honor guard members spent numerous hours training in order to prepare in case of an activation. Eighty-one new members were sworn into the largest non-military honor guard in the nation. Nearly 1,000 attendees gathered to pay respect to fallen firefighters.

OSFM thanks all honor guard members for their service honoring fallen firefighters and for helping make our Fallen Firefighter Memorial/Medal of Honor Ceremonies a success every year!



Change the Clock Change the Batteries



Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8th at 2 AM. The time change serves as a great reminder to test your smoke alarms and change the batteries in them. This is also a good time to review your fire escape plan and hold a fire drill. It's important to teach kids to recognize the sound of a smoke alarm, once they hear that sound, put their fire escape plan into action.

In 2017, a new Illinois law was passed requiring all homes build before 1988, or that do not have hardwired smoke alarms, to install ten-year sealed battery smoke alarms. This law will take effect January 1, 2023. This is meant to help prevent batteries from being removed and not replaced in alarms, which would then render them useless.

When testing smoke alarms and you find one that is not working or that is expired, now is the time to replace with a new ten-year sealed battery alarm. It's important to check smoke alarms once a month, but the time change services as a great reminder twice a year to conduct these tests. Smoke alarms are the most important part of your fire-safety plan and a working alarm can save your life.

Programs such as "Be Alarmed!" and the American Red Cross are helping to get working smoke alarms in homes across Illinois. In 2019, according to the "Be Alarmed!" program, 89% of pre-existing smoke alarms in homes that received new ten-year sealed battery smoke alarms were non-functional or expired (2,592 of 2,909 pre-existing alarms). The program installed nearly five thousand smoke alarms in Illinois homes, meaning over 1,600 Illinois homes are now protected by new smoke alarms.

More information on how departments and districts can get involved can be found here:

<https://www.ifsa.org/sites/www.ifsa.org/files/assets/2019%20Be%20Alarmed%21%20Fire%20Department%20Guide.pdf>

Older Adults & Fire Safety

OSFM encourages older Illinoisans to think about fire safety, while keeping their limitations in mind. In 2018, out of the 118 fire deaths in Illinois, 44% of those deaths were people over the age of 60. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA) on average, over 1,000 American over the age of 65 and older die due to home fires and 2,000 are injured in fire-related incidences yearly. The leading cause of residential fire deaths among older adults is careless smoking.

Keep these tips in mind:

- Know two ways out of every room. Practice using both ways.
- Remove any items that may block your way out of the room or your home.
- Discuss your fire escape plan with family and neighbors. Contact your building manager or fire department to discuss your plan if you need extra help escaping.
- Keep eyeglasses, keys, hearing aids and a phone within reach next to your bed.
- Practice your home fire escape drill twice a year.

Prevent home fires. Protect what matters.

Older adults are more likely to die in home fires. They may move more slowly or have trouble hearing a smoke alarm because of hearing loss.



Protect

Keep heaters at least 3 feet away from things that can burn. Heaters can cause fires if they are too close to furniture, beds, curtains, or other materials that can burn. Turn space heaters off before you leave the home.



Prepare

Have working smoke alarms on every level of your home. You should have a smoke alarm inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Test to make sure the sound of the alarm is loud enough to wake you.



Plan

Make an escape plan around your abilities. If you need to use a wheelchair or cane, make sure you can get to them quickly. Keep glasses or hearing aids next to the bed.

Learn more about fire prevention: www.usfa.fema.gov

Older Adults & Fire Safety

Fire Safety Checklist for Caregivers of Older Adults

Older adults are more likely to die in home fires because they may move slower or have trouble hearing the smoke alarm. Make sure the people you know are prepared and safe.



Put a check in front of each statement that is true for your home.

Smoke Alarms

- ☐ Smoke alarms are on every level of the home.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are inside and outside sleeping areas.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are tested each month.
- ☐ Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.
- ☐ People can hear smoke alarms from any room.



Can everyone hear the alarm?

If not, consider another type of smoke alarm – like one that has a different sound or one that comes with a bed shaker or strobe light.

Escape Plan

- ☐ There is a fire escape plan that shows 2 ways out of every room.
- ☐ Exits are always clear and not blocked with furniture or other items.
- ☐ Everyone knows where the safe meeting place is outside the home.
- ☐ The escape plan works for everyone, including people who use a wheelchair, a hearing aid, or glasses.
- ☐ There is a phone near the bed to call a local emergency number in case of a fire.



Can everyone get out?

Make sure people who use a wheelchair or a cane can get to them and get out quickly. Tell them to keep glasses or hearing aids next to the bed.

Cooking Safety

- ☐ The cooking area has no items that can burn.
- ☐ People stay in the kitchen when they are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.

Smoking Safety

If they smoke, make sure they are a fire-safe smoker:

- ☐ People only smoke outside and never in bed.
- ☐ People put cigarettes out safely in an ashtray with a wide base that will not tip over.
- ☐ People never smoke around medical oxygen.

Heating Safety

- ☐ Space heaters are least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- ☐ People blow out candles before leaving the room.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- ☐ Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home.
- ☐ Carbon monoxide alarms are less than 7 years old.

Electrical and Appliance Safety

- ☐ No electrical cords run under rugs.
- ☐ All electrical cords are in good condition and not broken or cut.
- ☐ People clean the dryer of lint after every use.
- ☐ All plug outlets are safe and do not feel warm when you touch them. (If they are warm, call the landlord or an electrician.)

Learn more about fire prevention:
www.usfa.fema.gov

U.S. Fire
Administration



FEMA



Older Adults & Fire Safety

Smoke Alarms

Working smoke alarms save lives. However, people who are deaf or hard of hearing may not be able to depend on the traditional smoke alarm to alert them to a fire.



for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For added safety, interconnect all the smoke alarms. If one sounds, they all sound. This gives people more time to escape.

SAFETY TIPS

- Smoke alarms and alert devices are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Strobe lights flash when the smoke alarm sounds. The lights warn people of a possible fire.
- When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker can wake them so they can escape. The shaker is activated by the sound of a smoke alarm.
- When people who are hard of hearing are asleep, an alert device that uses a loud, mixed, low-pitched sound can wake them. They may find a pillow or bed shaker helpful. These devices are triggered by the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Research the products and select the ones that best meet your needs.

WHERE TO FIND EQUIPMENT

Search home improvement store websites or use a general search engine to look for strobe light smoke alarms. BRK/First Alert, Gentex, and Kidde brands offer this type of smoke alarm. Find smoke alarm accessories such as pillow or bed shakers, transmitters, and receivers at lifetonesafety.com, safeawake.com and silentcall.com. Choose devices that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

FACT

Home fire sprinklers keep fires small. This gives people more time to escape in a fire.

AND DON'T FORGET...
Test all smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



nfpa.org/disabilities • nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2017

Oxygen Use Safety

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that 89% of deaths related to fire and home oxygen use are caused by smoking.

**Don't
Let Your
World
Go Up In
Smoke.**

**Home fires
are preventable.**

**Never smoke around
medical oxygen.**

Medical oxygen can explode if a flame or spark is near. Even if the oxygen is turned off, it can still catch on fire. If you smoke cigarettes, it is always safer to smoke outside.

U.S. Fire
Administration



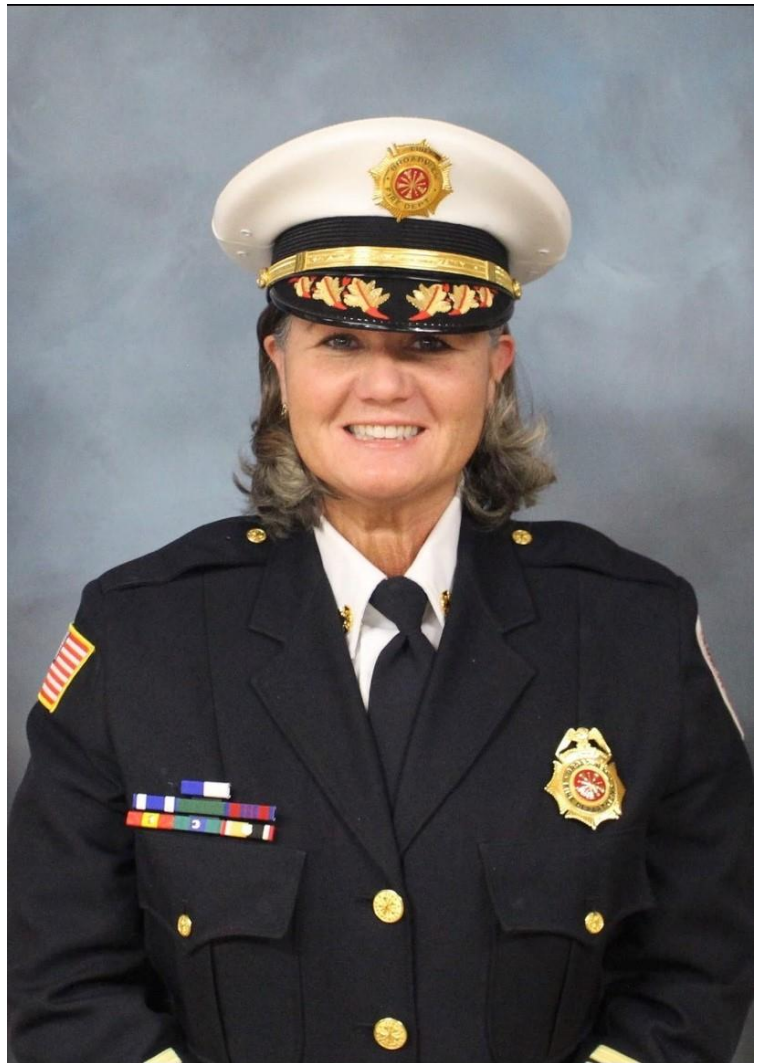
Learn more about fire prevention: www.usfa.fema.gov



10 Tips for Oxygen Safety in the Home

1. *Never smoke or allow anyone to smoke around oxygen. Post NO SMOKING signs in your home.*
2. *Keep Oxygen canisters at least 5-10 feet away from a heat source*
3. *Avoid using lotions, creams or other home care products containing petroleum.*
4. *Store oxygen canisters safely and securely in the upright position, away from any type of heat source and in an approved oxygen storage cart or other device designed for home oxygen use.*
5. *Turn your oxygen supply valve to the off position when oxygen is not in use.*
6. *Avoid using anything that may cause a spark around home oxygen.*
7. *Install and maintain smoke detectors in your home.*
8. *Familiarize yourself with your oxygen equipment and the safety checks established by your home oxygen supply company.*
9. *Inform your power company that you are oxygen dependent.*
10. *Store your oxygen in a well-ventilated area away from the sun.*

Fire Fighting Medal of Honor Committee



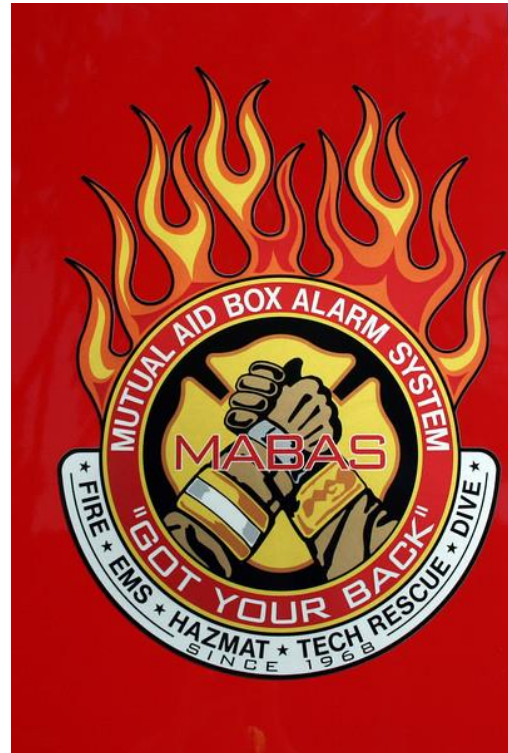
Governor JB Pritzker has appointed Broadview Fire Department Chief Tracy Kenny to the Fire Fighting Medal of Honor Committee.

The Committee is responsible for developing an annual award program to recognize fire fighters who were killed, seriously hurt, or displayed bravery or heroism in the line of duty; and for working with fire-fighting organizations in the state to design, develop and procure a Fire Fighting Medal of Honor.

The committee is comprised of 10 members: 8 appointed by the Governor; 3 fire chiefs from other than Chicago; 3 representatives of statewide fire-fighting organizations (FFO); 2 retired Illinois firefighters; State Fire Marshal and Chief of Chicago Fire Department.

This year's Fallen Firefighter Memorial and Medal of Honor Ceremony will be held on May 12, 2020 in Springfield.

MABAS Conference-Normal



MABAS-Illinois Training Summit 2020 was held in Normal from February 24th through 28th. Fire Marshal Perez provided welcoming remarks and thanked everyone for their commitment to MABAS and dedication to helping protect the citizens of Illinois.

Sessions ranged from effective communication, responses to different emergencies, active shooters and much more. OSFM representatives were on hand during the week to answer questions and to help provide guidance with respect to our policies.

Chicago Public Fire Safety Education Summit



*OSFM Fire Service Outreach Coordinator
Greg Hay*

Fire Marshal Perez and OSFM Fire Service Outreach Coordinator Greg Hay spoke about OSFM's public education outreach programs and CRR planning strategies at the 2020 Chicago Public Fire Safety Education Summit.

The summit brought together different organizations and fire service personnel to learn about public safety outreach, strategies for working with the media, current fire service programs and standards on Community Risk Reduction.



*Fire Marshal Perez and Deputy District Chief CFD
Walter Schroeder (Organizer of the event)*



*Fire Marshal Perez and Preston Roberson
CFD (helped organize event)*



*OSFM Special Agent
Kushner & K-9 Zoe*



Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors-Peoria



Deputy Director Armstead delivering OSFM's Agency Update



Several members of OSFM's PS&E Division



OSFM's Deputy Director Alix Armstead presented an agency update to attendees at the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors in Peoria.

OSFM's Personnel Standards and Education Division held their annual staff meeting and were also on hand to network with the attendees. Training officers who attended the conference are the group that PS&E field staff work with and interact with daily.

Members from the PS&E staff also presented topics such as the SCAC program; what JCAR rules are and where to find them; OSFM certification process and testing (including the somewhat new computer-based testing); facility and course approvals; the current recertification process; records and claims reviews performed by our field staff; some aspects of the WebAccess Portal and the OSFM website.

Contact PS&E if you have any questions here:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/About/Divisions/Personnel-Standards/Pages/default.aspx>

Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts-O'Fallon

OSFM's Public Information Officer (PIO) JC Fultz presented an agency update to members attending the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts Winter Conference in O'Fallon.

The agency update showcased OSFM's commitment to helping volunteer firefighters receive training and to achieve certification through programs OSFM is providing funding for. Other programs such as the Fire Truck and Ambulance Revolving Loan and Small Equipment Grant opportunities were highlighted. A reminder about keeping NFIRS data current and compliant was discussed. OSFM's outreach through social media was highlighted to help provide a fire prevention message to residents in the districts they represent.

Fire Chiefs and trustees from fire districts from across Central and Southern Illinois were in attendance.



PIO JC Fultz delivering OSFM's Agency Update



Illinois Automatic Fire Alarm Association Summit-Addison



Fire Marshal Perez provided opening remarks at the Illinois Automatic Fire Alarm Association Summit in Addison on February 27th. Fire Marshal Perez spoke about the update from NFPA 101 Life Safety Code 2000 edition to the 2015 edition and stressed OSFM's commitment to working with the fire service, industry stakeholders and the members of the General Assembly in order to keep Illinois a fire-safe state.

The IL-ADAA is committed to influencing codes and standards at all levels to make buildings safer through the proper application of automatic fire detection and fire alarm systems. It actively participates in the code change process of International Code Conference with focus on the IBC, IFC and IRC national codes; and the key NFPA Codes/Standards with focus on NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code and 101 Life Safety Code.



Left to Right: Kathie Rose, Fire Marshal Perez and Andrea Barghini



OSFM Retirement



Deputy Director Alix Armstead, Chief of Operations Dale Simpson and Fire Prevention Division Manager Larry Eaton honored OSFM Fire Inspector Ron Fowler on January 31st. Ron is retiring after 12 years of service to OSFM. Springfield office staff stopped by and thanked Ron for his service and wished him well in retirement.



Rock Island Arsenal Fire Department Retirement



Fire Marshal Perez honored Rock Island Arsenal Fire and Emergency Services Chief Terry McMaster with a plaque for his 30+ years of dedication to the fire service. OSFM wished Chief McMaster and his family well in his retirement.



OSFM Shout Outs-Kudos

Good morning Matt,

I didn't get a chance to say hello yesterday, you had someone in your ear the entire meet & greet. Hope you're doing well.

I wanted to let you know that I have been really impressed with what has been coming out of your office since taking on JC Fultz. If there was one criticism of the OSFM office since I began at the IFSA (6 years ago), it would be the lack of educational information (both for the public and for the fire service) that was distributed through various media outlets. There are several other State Fire Marshal Offices I follow, and they were/are always producing great content both to educate their residents on fire safety as well as happenings at the state level for their fire department personnel.

Since JC has come on board, it has been a complete 180. The amount of content I see coming from your office, whether it be newspaper, social media, or tv news, has been outstanding. It has been a fantastic mix of educational and awareness material that is important for all to know about. More so, I believe by providing this content as the state entity, it allows local fire departments to take that and redistribute it to their community, so that their residents can be educated. I think this will continue to be a huge benefit to the fire service and the state of Illinois.

Keep up the great work,

*Philip Zaleski
Executive Director
Illinois Fire Safety Alliance*

Shout out to Larry Eaton and Deb Wickenhauser for job well done conducting a code presentation to DCFS personnel in Mt. Vernon.

Thanks so much for coming and meeting with us today. All the staff enjoyed it and I think everyone learned something new!!! Your whole crew is so great to work with! Thanks Again!

Mary C. Harlan, LCSW
Day Care Licensing Supervisor



Congratulations

Years of Service at OSFM

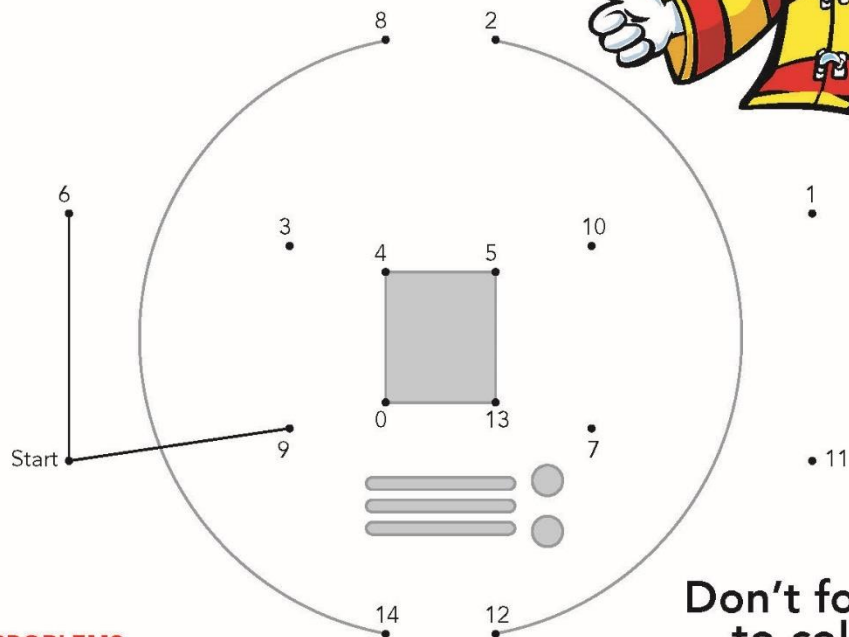
Randy Carben- 15 years, P&CS, Storage Tank Safety Specialist

Greg Hay- 5 years, Fire Service Outreach Coordinator

Kid's Corner

Sparky's[®] Connect the Dots With Math!

Complete the math problems.
The answers will tell you how
to connect the dots. The first
one is done for you!



PROBLEMS

1. $3 + 3 =$
2. $9 - 6 =$
3. $4 + 0 =$
4. $5 + 3 =$
5. $1 + 1 =$
6. $7 - 2 =$
7. $9 + 1 =$
8. $8 - 7 =$
9. $7 + 4 =$
10. $13 - 6 =$
11. $11 + 2 =$
12. $9 + 3 =$
13. $8 + 6 =$
14. $10 - 10 =$
15. $6 + 3 =$

Don't forget
to color in
your picture.



Check out Sparky.org
For More Fun!

Smoke alarm: a gift to keep you safe. Make sure there are smoke alarms in your home.

Kid's Corner

Kitchen Safety Hidden Pics

See if you can find: ☐ binoculars, ☐ flip-flop, ☐ sock, ☐ sand shovel, ☐ fire hydrant, ☐ sailboat,
☐ pizza slice, ☐ hammer, ☐ comb, ☐ book, ☐ ice cream cone, ☐ leaf, ☐ eyeglasses, ☐ baseball, ☐ banana, ☐ butterfly,
☐ lightbulb, ☐ bell, ☐ fried egg, ☐ beach ball, ☐ baseball bat, ☐ pencil, ☐ tape measure, ☐ 3 smoke alarms!



Sparky says... "Stay safe in the kitchen!"

- ✱ Stay at least 3 feet from the stove.
- ✱ A grown-up should decide when you are old enough to use a microwave oven.
- ✱ Stay away from things that get hot.
- ✱ Remind grown-ups to keep things that can burn away from the stovetop.

CHECK OUT **SPARKY.ORG** FOR MORE FUN!